

PRESS RELEASE

4 July 2023- OPTA EUROPE welcomes new members from Spain and Poland and elects a Board to face the challenges for the years ahead.

OPTA Europe, the European Association representing organic processors and traders, elected during its General Assembly its Board for a three-years mandate. The Board composition is:

- President: Stefan Hipp (HiPP, Germany)
- Treasurer: Ivars Orlovs (Aloja, Latvia)
- Member: Karst Kooistra (Tradin Organic, The Netherlands)
- Member: Manuel Hutten (Eosta, The Netherlands)
- Member: Katia Ziegler (Pronatec, Switzerland)

This Board has a deep expertise of the organic processing and trade context, both within the EU and at international level, and will push for forward-looking organic policies that encourage entrepreneurship and allow companies to thrive.

Re-elected Board President Stefan Hipp said: *"This is a critical time for organic companies. We need to work on solutions for the rapidly evolving policy issues that impact our industry, from the implementation of the complex new organic regulation when it comes to trade or pesticides contamination to the upcoming EU Sustainable Food Framework. OPTA Europe's Board and members bring a wealth of organic experience directly to European policy making."*

This General Assembly was also the occasion for OPTA Europe to officially welcome two new members: the **Polish Chamber of Organic Food (PIZE)** and the **Spanish Association of Organic Processors and Traders (Asobio)**. At the light of the challenges that the sector is facing, this enlargement strengthens OPTA Europe's voice to better defend the interest of organic companies.

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Note to Editors:

OPTA Europe www.opta-eu.org is the membership organization representing the interest of EU organic processing and trade companies, as officially recognized by EU institutions. Its membership encompasses 12 EU Member States plus North America and Switzerland. Taken together, the companies represented by OPTA Europe account for a large share of total EU import & export and processing of organic products. --End--

OPTA Europe, Organic Processing and Trade Association

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